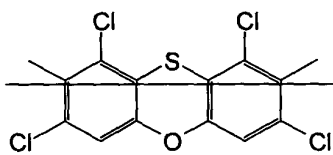


In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for the nuclear chlorination of ortho-xylene, which comprises reacting ortho-xylene with a chlorinating agent in the presence of at least one Friedel-Crafts catalyst and chlorine-substituted 2,8-dimethylphenoxathiin as co-catalyst.
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein tetrachlorinated 2,8-dimethylphenoxathiin is used, ~~preferably 1,3,7,9-tetrachloro-2,8-dimethylphenoxathiin of the formula~~

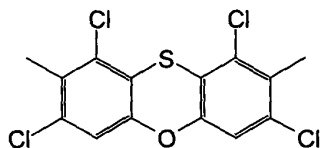


3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein elemental chlorine or sulfuryl chloride is used as chlorinating agent.
4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the co-catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.001 to 5% by weight, based on the amount of the ortho-xylene used.
5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ratio of Friedel-Crafts catalyst or its precursor to the co-catalyst is in the range from 500:1 to 1:5.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the method is carried out without addition of a solvent.
7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the method is carried out at a temperature in the range from -20 to +120°C.
8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of the chlorinating agent used is selected such that a degree of chlorination of significantly greater than 1 results.

Add new claims 9-15 as follows:

9. (new) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein 1,3,7,9-tetrachloro-2,8-dimethylphenoxathiin of the formula



is used.

10. (new) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein elemental chlorine or sulfuryl chloride is used as chlorinating agent.
11. (new) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the co-catalyst is used in an amount of from 0.001 to 5% by weight, based on the amount of the ortho-xylene used.

12. (new) The method as claimed claim 2, wherein the ratio of Friedel-Crafts catalyst or its precursor to the co-catalyst is in the range from 500:1 to 1:5.
13. (new) The method as claimed claim 3, wherein the method is carried out without addition of a solvent.
14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the method is carried out at a temperature in the range from -20 to +120°C.
15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the amount of the chlorinating agent used is selected such that a degree of chlorination of significantly greater than 1 results.